

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 245137

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, AS, US

SUBJECT: USAF PROPOSALS FOR SOON AND RSTN

REF: CANBERRA 6535

1. AIR FORCE PLANS CALL FOR A SOLAR OBSERVING OPTICAL NETWORK/RADIO SOLAR TELESCOPE NETWORK (SOON/RSTN) FACILITY TO BE ESTABLISHED IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA DURING 1977-78 TIME FRAME. FUNDS FOR EQUIPMENT PROCUREMENT AND BUILDING CONSTRUCTION ARE PROGRAMMED FOR FY 76 AND 77. AIR FORCE HAS INITIATED A CRITICAL REVIEW OF REQUIREMENTS FOR SOLAR OBSERVING OPERATIONS. THIS COULD LEAD TO A DELAY IN SOON/RSTN PROGRAM AND THE PLAN TO ESTABLISH A FACILITY IN AUSTRALIA. IN REVIEWING REQUIREMENTS FOR
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AUSTRALIAN FACILITY, AIR FORCE WILL EXPLORE COST

EFFECTIVE ALTERNATIVES.

2. PENDING OUTCOME OF THIS REVIEW, A SOON/RSTN FACILITY IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA IS PREFERABLE TO A COLLOCATED FACILITY IN CULGOORA. OPTICAL DATA ACQUISITION QUALITY IS OF PRIME CONCERN. ADDITIONALLY, WESTERN AUSTRALIA PROVIDES BETTER OVERLAP AND BALANCE WITH CURRENT/PLANNED NETWORK OF STATIONS. MAY 10, 1974, LETTER FROM MR. E.G. BOWEN TO AIR FORCE INDICATES AUSTRALIAN

SCIENTISTS RECOGNIZE ADVANTAGES OF A SECOND OBSERVATORY IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA TO COMPLEMENT THEIR CULGOORA OPERATION.

3. YOU MAY USE FOREGOING TO ADVISE AUSTRALIANS NOT TO DELAY THEIR CONSTRUCTION PLANS FOR CULGOORA IN ANTICIPATION OF AIR FORCE COLLOCATING SOON/RSTN EQUIPMENT AT THAT LOCATION. AIR FORCE WILL INITIATE ACTIONS LATER AS REQUIREMENTS/PLANS BECOME CLEARER, AND WE WILL KEEP YOU ADVISED. INGERSOLL

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